

# Northern Great Plains Network

## *Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report*

June 2001

Greetings! After several weeks as the new Northern Great Plains Network I&M Coordinator I have come to appreciate even more the excellent job Vanessa Hill was doing in that capacity (and the complexity and challenge of the task before me!). These monthly newsletters are just one of her many initiatives that I plan to continue.

I think we all agree that the highest Network priority by far is completion of the Inventory Study Plan by September 30 of this year. Please bear with me as I focus on pulling together all the various pieces into a draft plan. I hope to share the draft with you in early September. Long-term, I fully expect to coordinate all activities in a careful and deliberate manner, including regular conference calls, emails etc. (providing you all want that level of coordination). However, in the short-term I really need to focus on preparing a study plan that will get us funding for inventories in FY02 (in other words, you may not hear from me a lot between now and when I get you the draft).

***Meeting with University of Nebraska - Lincoln/State Museum Staff:*** Steve Cinnamon, Phyllis Adams, and myself met with Dr. Patricia Freeman and Dr. Hugh Genoways of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln to discuss voucher specimens. As many of you know, Hugh is a mammalogist at UNL and a leading authority on Great Plains mammals (if memory serves, he was also at the first Network scoping session). Dr. Freeman is the curator of the museum. I came away from the meeting convinced that UNL can be, and perhaps should be, an active partner in the Network I&M effort.

Vanessa had already had preliminary conversations with Hugh on conducting a search of museums for voucher specimens from NPS lands. There is \$10,000 included in the FY01 budget for such an effort. Within a few days I will draft a scope-of-work. I anticipate making use of the CESU at Lincoln to facilitate the process.

Fortunately, we do not need to make any commitments or obligations at this time on voucher storage. Based on approved study plans I've seen it should suffice to broadly outline in our study plan the Network's potential options. I recognize that many parks have the desire and capability to store vouchers on site; however, I was very impressed with the UNL facilities and encourage parks to keep an open mind. We can revisit the issue this winter.

Hugh also expressed an interest in conducting the field inventories. Once again, the decisions on who will actually be conducting the field work can be deferred until sometime in FY02.

***Contracts:*** I have received from Gina Hupton the results of a literature search for publications conducted on NPS lands in the Great Plains. She will soon be sending copies of documents not currently in our files.

The fish inventories appear to be ready to go at SCBL, DETO, MORU, FOLA, and WICA. I believe all the parks have completed the necessary permits and NEPA compliance --- if not, please contact me.

Cynthia Reed has provided a list of plants expected at WICA, JECA, MORU, BADL, THRO, KNRI, and FOUS. I believe Vanessa has forwarded copies of the list to the respective parks --- if not, let me know and I will send you a copy.

***Personal Items:*** I will be closing on a house in the Rapid City area August 15. As you all know, my duty station for the short-term is BADL. I appreciate the park's willingness to find space for me.

Although I have committed all my free time to completing the study plan, I still have a few other commitments between now and September 30. I will spend several days at parks in Wisconsin and Michigan (as part of my Regional Wildlife Biologist duties). I will also be attending the national I&M meeting in Phoenix in August. And of course, the PCS relocation needs will take up some of my time.